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# INSIGHTS



## CONTINUOUS ACCOUNTING AND RPA:

*Titan Consulting asks, “Are you finally able to achieve your goal?”*

Continuous Accounting has been a robust topic in academia and for Thought Leaders for the past 10+ years. However, the conversation has migrated to the CFO or Controllers office at a snail's pace, until recently. With RPA (Robotic Process Automation), the possibility of Continuous Accounting becomes a reality and a necessity for the Digital CFO.

Let us first understand the roots of the Continuous Accounting movement. The emphasis was founded in the 1-day close or daily-close initiative gaining attention in the early '90s. While these are two separate initiatives, they merge to the same objective, provide timely accounting information to run the business internally and report the periodic results externally.

Additional objectives of Continuous Accounting include:

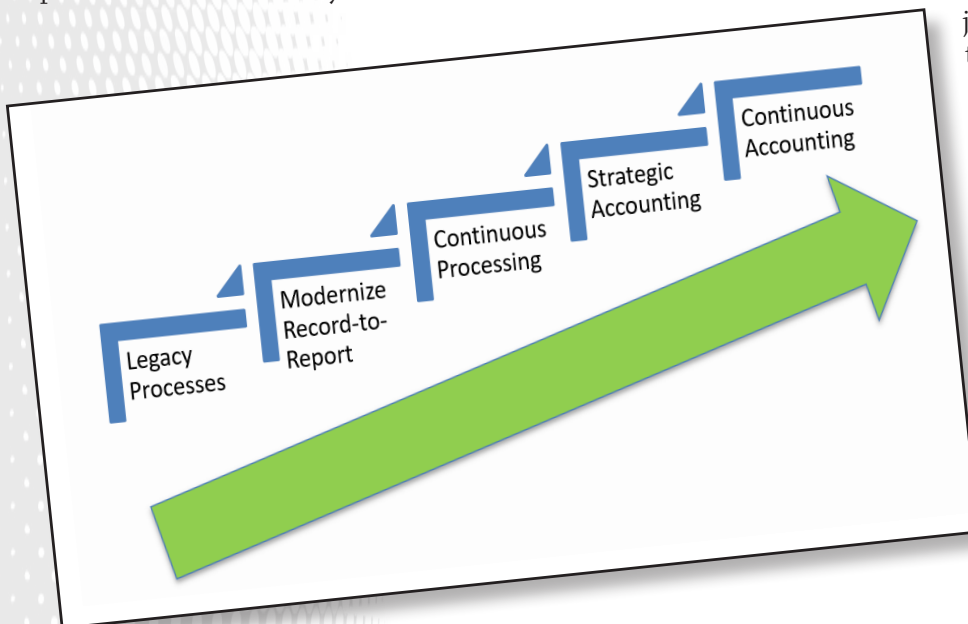
- Reduce Time per Business Cycles and Tasks, i.e., Bank Reconciliation
- Increase Confidence and Accuracy in the Data
- Greater Flexibility and Scalability, i.e., fixed to variable costs
- Lower Cost of Compliance and Controls
- Allocation of Resources to Higher Value Tasks and Activities.

The idea was sound; the technology to support these principles did not exist.

RPA reduces the effort and time on this journey. In simple terms, RPA is a software technology that makes it easy to build, deploy, and manage software robots that emulate human actions interacting with digital systems and software.

### Where to Start on your Journey:

We call our digital workforce **FINBOTs** because these talented Bots focus on repetitive, manual tasks that no one likes to do. Historically, these tasks, such as cash processing, invoice processing, spreadsheet substantiation, and journal entry processing, to name a few mundane task, were the sole activity of the accounting department. Who wakes up every morning declaring they want to post 100 checks?



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These essential but mind-numbing activities are the place to start!

These tasks are broken into three timeframes, daily, weekly, and periodic, i.e., monthly or quarterly. Electronic Bank reconciliation (Prior Day Processing) is an example of a daily task.

Our SAP FINBOTs® are ready-to-run and deploy in weeks, not months or longer on ECC or S/4. Processing cash payments via checks, lockbox, or ACH provides an immediate payback and gives back valuable time to the business: **How important is that when you are trying to find employees?**

The FINBOT® can securely log into your bank's portal or SFTP site, retrieve the bank files, process the files, send out the log reports, and archive the files before you finish that first cup of coffee. It will process the transactions faster and with higher accuracy.

Use FINBOTs® for processing periodic redundant manual activities. How many times has Intercompany reconciliation impacted your close schedule? In a recent survey on Closing Activities, 1/3 of the respondents selected Intercompany reconciliation as the most time-consuming and tedious close task. Inventory reconciliation was the only area rated at a higher risk than Intercompany processing. However, the key point is that more resources are allocated to Inventory than are allocated to Intercompany, making this process an equivalent risk and challenge.

FINBOTs® can perform the initial Intercompany data crunching to identify where legal entities and accounts are out-of-balance. Then, either find the correct answers from the missing entities or prepare the top-side entry to balance the Intercompany accounts, or perform both tasks.

FINBOTs® work on more than SAP. This 24x7 workforce can log into your ERP system in India or China and capture, analyze, and download the support for their IC balances as well.

### Growing your FINBOTs®

There are countless recurring tasks that your digital workforce can perform. Additional Use Cases for FINBOTs® include:

- Month-end closing activities
- Intercompany reconciliation
- AR – Prioritization and response to Disputes, Collections, and Credit
- AP – Payments, Blocked Invoices, Workflow, and Controls
- Inventory – Valuation, GR/IR Processing, and Freight
- Fixed Assets – CIP, Capital Lease Calculations, and Roll-forward reports
- Management Accounting – Cost Estimate Rolls, Reporting, Variance Analysis.

This is a small sample of how Bots help Finance. The same benefits can happen in HR, Supply Chain, Customer Service, IT, and other departments.



Titan recently sponsored through ASUG a focused, fact-based, webcast on how to accelerate your Digital Transformation with Certainty using FINBOTs®. During the webinar, you will learn

- How FINBOTs® reduce time, risks, and costs during daily, weekly, and monthly cycles
- How to attain Productivity Gains in Finance and Accounting using FINBOTs®
- What are the Payback Metrics to Justify an RPA Project.

### Want to Learn More About FINBOTs®?

There are a few simple steps to learn more about FINBOTs®. Join us for an On Demand Webcast presented with ASUG. Register for the Webcast at this link [FINBOTs Live Webcast](https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/3455808/91B9CDD0CC0447883D7066520A7B41E6?partnerref=Titan) or cut and paste this link into your browser: <https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/3455808/91B9CDD0CC0447883D7066520A7B41E6?partnerref=Titan>

Or, contact Keith Johnson, [keith@titanconsulting.net](mailto:keith@titanconsulting.net), 214.289.0924, or your Titan Consulting Director. You can see additional information on our **Thought Leadership** page at [www.titanconsulting.net](http://www.titanconsulting.net).